The Institute of International Humanitarian Affairs

When the Institute was conceived many years ago, its Founders decided that the education and training of humanitarian workers would be our main focus, and that these efforts must meet the strict academic standards of a university. Only by this approach would our graduates gain the international legitimacy that comes with the conferring of recognized diplomas and degrees. A multidisciplinary university setting could foster analyses of best—and worst—practices in the field, and promote the publication of books and articles to disseminate knowledge of the emerging profession of international humanitarian affairs.

This Annual Report provides a record of another successful period pursuing our goals. The International Diploma in Humanitarian Assistance (IDHA) program and a diverse series of specialized courses ranging from mental health in conflicts to field logistics and new strategic issues now has more than 3,000 graduates from 135 nations. The Master’s in International Humanitarian Action (MIHA) program is firmly established with courses offered around the world to accommodate our unique cohort of international humanitarian workers. Furthermore, our undergraduate Major in Humanitarian Studies is one of the only such programs in the world, and is one of the fastest growing programs at Fordham University.

To accommodate the academic demands—and be able to fully participate in the life of the University—our Institute has recently moved to a much larger space at the main Rose Hill campus.

The Graduate School of Arts and Sciences continues to support and champion these humanitarian programs. We have surpassed, by far, the number of courses, graduates, and global reputation ever dreamed of in earlier years. The challenge ahead will be to stay innovative, imaginative, and flexible. I am encouraged by the daily enthusiasm of our staff and volunteers and by the new faculty and students whose involvement in the noble discipline of humanitarian assistance clearly enriches their own lives as well as the lives of those they serve.
I have a difficult time each year trying to sum up the work of the Institute as it always seems such a leap forward, and yet never enough.

Our Master’s in International Humanitarian Action (MIHA) continues training mid-career aid professionals in locations throughout the world. As it grows, it continues to influence thousands and thousands, and its impact is immediate—the participants go right back into their work—but also immeasurable. Our training allows our family of alumni to not only learn but also seek practical ways to provide assistance to vulnerable populations effectively and with dignity.

Our undergraduate programs are growing, and in the next year we will be opening more courses at Fordham’s Rose Hill campus while maintaining our presence at Lincoln Center. We want those who are interested in social justice and in entering the humanitarian sector to do so with knowledge and skills, not just passion and compassion.

Our non-academic partnerships with the International Organization for Migration, the International Federation of Red Cross and Red Crescent Societies, and the Jesuit Refugee Service are based on years of personal relationships and shared goals. Our academic partnerships, from Javeriana University in Colombia to the NOHA global network, look to share ever more broadly our own training, research and outreach.

Though this represents progress, it is not enough, and we continue to be humbled by all that we aspire to accomplish with new tools. One area that we have embarked on is in online learning—trying to create a model that offers education with dignity and celebrates different cultures. We have invested in and continue to promote humanitarian innovation through the High Tech Humanitarians platform. We have also reorganized our approach to communications and outreach and we have deepened our research goals. We want to always be a place for continuous change and improvement, and to look for new solutions for social justice issues.

We are thankful for those who have supported our work, most especially our partnership with the Center for International Humanitarian Cooperation (CIHC), as well as other foundations and individuals, who have supported hundreds of thousands of dollars for scholarships for those from the Global South. The donors have allowed us to teach, to convene, to listen and to learn. We are thankful for the ongoing contributions made by Fordham’s superb faculty toward humanitarian studies, and for our global family of thousands of alumni who continue to return and contribute.

We look forward to continuing to make a difference throughout the world.
The IIHA Team

Kevin M. Cahill, M.D. University Professor and Director
Brendan Cahill Executive Director
Larry Hollingworth, C.B.E. Humanitarian Programs Director,
Visiting Professor of Humanitarian Studies
Anthony Land, Ph.D. Senior Fellow
Peter Hansen Diplomat-In-Residence
Abdulaziz Al-Nasser Diplomat-In-Residence
Ellen Bratina International Programs Coordinator
Angela Wells Communications Officer
Giulio Coppi Humanitarian Innovation Fellow
Nora Setién Viota Research Fellow on Preventive Diplomacy
Rene Desiderio, Ph.D. Research Fellow on Aging, Urbanization
and International Migration
Laura Perez Research Fellow on Children and Armed Conflict
Larissa Fast Research Fellow

News and Announcements

Enhanced Courses in Complex Emergency Response

In partnership with the United Nations High Commissioner for Refugees (UNHCR), HealthNet TPO, and International Medical Corps (IMC), the IIHA hosted its Mental Health in Complex Emergencies (MHCE) course in Addis Ababa, Ethiopia. Ethiopia is host to the largest number of refugees in Africa and is no stranger to drought, famine and other natural disasters. This course taught humanitarians practical skills in mental health and psychosocial care during complex emergencies and was later replicated in Geneva, Switzerland.

The IIHA went on to offer trainings in Education in Emergencies in Amman, Jordan and Nairobi, Kenya – two countries hosting hundreds of thousands of displaced children at risk of losing their chance for an education. The IIHA partnered with the Jesuit Refugee Service (JRS) to host the course.

Below: IIHA Faculty Gonzalo Sánchez-Tobón awards student with a certificate of completion of the Education in Emergencies course in Amman, Jordan
IDHA Returns to the Middle East

In November 2015, 20 students from 14 different countries representing 12 organizations assembled to participate in the 46th International Diploma in Humanitarian Assistance (IDHA) in Amman, Jordan. This was the second time the IDHA has been offered in the Middle East as it had previously taken place in Cairo, Egypt. Over the four-week course, students engaged in lectures delivered by field experts and worked as members of a syndicate on collaborative projects.

Below: Students from around the world participate in the IDHA Education in Emergency course in Amman, Jordan.
IIHA Welcomes Humanitarian Innovation Fellow

The IIHA began 2016 with a new challenge: to support the dissemination and promotion of humanitarian innovation worldwide. This initiative, spearheaded by the development of a web platform called High Tech Humanitarians (HTH) and promoted by the IIHA Humanitarian Innovation Fellow, Giulio Coppi, has a special focus on Open Source Technology and community-based approaches. The open source approach allows non-governmental organizations and local organizations to use, modify, adapt, and improve the solutions they prefer according to their own needs. In the future, HTH aims to expand its network to like-minded organizations at all levels, as well as to create real and virtual spaces for open humanitarian innovation. Many advancements to this end have already been made, with IIHA and HTH as initiating members of the Global Alliance for Humanitarian Innovation (GAHI).

IIHA Hosts Second Group of NOHA Scholars

The IIHA hosted the second cohort of the Network on Humanitarian Action (NOHA) Erasmus Mundus students at Fordham University during the summer session. Seven students came to Fordham from three universities to conduct research for their Master’s theses focusing on various humanitarian issues. NOHA students in 2016 researched modern-day issues facing humanitarian agencies and potential solutions.
IIHA Formalizes Partnerships with Humanitarian Agencies

“At the 2016 graduation ceremony of the 47th International Diploma in Humanitarian Assistance (IDHA), IIHA Executive Director Brendan Cahill joined International Federation of Red Cross and Red Crescent Societies (IFRC) Secretary General H.E. Elhadj As Sy, to sign a Memorandum of Understanding between the IFRC and Fordham University. The IFRC has been a strong partner to the Institute for twenty years, frequently sharing their expertise and resources. In 2016, the two organizations formalized their partnership and envision joint distance learning, training programs, symposia, research, and other projects in years to come.

In March 2016, the IIHA also formalized its partnership with the Jesuit Refugee Service (JRS). Founded in 1980, JRS accompanies, serves and advocates on behalf of refugees and other forcibly displaced persons in more than 45 countries. As an Institute within a Jesuit University, the IIHA rests upon a foundation of shared principles and values.

In September 2016, Fordham University and the IIHA signed a Memorandum of Understanding with the International Organization for Migration (IOM), Fordham University President Joseph M. McShane, S.J., IIHA Executive Director Brendan Cahill, and IOM Director General Ambassador William Lacy Swing participated. The IIHA has worked with IOM since the onset of the IDHA, and this partnership cements future collaboration between the IIHA and the leading intergovernmental organization in the field of migration.

In 2016, the IIHA also continued its ongoing partnership with the Catholic Medical Mission Board (CMMB), an NGO providing health solutions to women and children living in crises in more than thirty-nine countries around the world. Several IIHA alumni have joined the organization as volunteers and eventually full-time staff with CMMB in Kenya, South Sudan, Peru and Zambia.

Each of these four partners not only offer assistance to those in need, but seek to do so in dignified, humane, and sustainable ways. IFRC builds and supports the capacity of national societies; JRS accompanies, serves and advocates on behalf of forcibly displaced persons globally; IOM provides assistance to migrants and promotes international cooperation on migration issues; and CMMB provides healthcare worldwide.

“We are a family because we are united by our shared humanity.
We are here because we care about the many situations of vulnerabilities where so many people are waking up on a daily basis in difficult situations.”

—H.E. Elhadj As Sy, Secretary General IFRC
Right: IIHA Executive Director Brendan Cahill and former UN Deputy Secretary General address participants of the ACUNS meeting at Fordham University in June 2016.

Academic Council on the United Nations System Meeting


Making A Difference: IIHA Alumni in the Field

The IIHA has an evergrowing community of alumni who serve as leading professionals in the field of international humanitarian affairs. With more than three thousand graduates, our alumni apply the knowledge gained through our training courses to respond critically and effectively in conflicts, disasters, and complex emergencies.

Our graduates are consulted by governmental organizations and top-tier media sources for their expertise on the most pressing crises facing the international community.
Graduate Programs

Master of Arts in International Humanitarian Action (MIHA)

For more than fifteen years, the IIHA has served as one of the leading training organizations for humanitarian aid workers globally. Building on the success of its flagship International Diploma in Humanitarian Assistance (IDHA) training course, the IIHA, in conjunction with Fordham University’s Graduate School of Arts and Sciences (GSAS), developed a Master of Arts in International Humanitarian Action (MIHA).

The MIHA program is a flexible, but academically rigorous degree-granting program that combines a theoretical basis with applied knowledge. The program is enriched by the academic strength of Fordham faculty and the expertise of seasoned humanitarian professionals who provide students with the comprehensive knowledge and on-the-ground skills needed to deal with the world’s most pressing challenges and disasters.

In 2016, the IIHA was proud to announce the graduation of Gianluigi Lopes (IDHA 37) from the Master’s in International Humanitarian Action (MIHA) Program. Gianluigi’s work in humanitarian contexts has spanned the fields of communications, advocacy, training, logistics, information, and project management. He has worked in a range of humanitarian medical interventions—responding to forced migration in the Mediterranean, detention centers, and conflict zones like Sudan; the diagnosis and treatment of HIV/AIDS, tuberculosis and malaria in South Africa, Lesotho, Sierra Leone, DR Congo, and Cambodia; and epidemics of Ebola in Western Africa and Cholera in Haiti and Sierra Leone. Gianluigi is currently working for the Italian Red Cross as Head of Delegation in the Occupied Territories in Ramallah, Palestine, and is in charge of operations for the Middle East-North Africa region.

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Below: IIHA Alumnus Gianluigi Lopes (right) on a humanitarian mission in 2016 with Médecins Sans Frontières (MSF) in Liberia.

Right: Recent graduates receive their diplomas at the graduation ceremony of IDHA 48 at Fordham University in New York City.

Bottom right: Students collaborate on a group project during the IDHA Course in New York City, June 2016.
Course Schedule 2015

February 1 – February 27
International Diploma In Humanitarian Assistance (IDHA) 44
Geneva, Switzerland

April 20 – April 24
Strategic Issues In Humanitarian Affairs 3
London, UK

April 27 – May 1
Disaster Management Training Course (DMTC) 7
London, UK

May 4 – May 8
Humanitarian Negotiators Training Course (HNTC) 13
Barcelona, Spain

May 11 – May 15
Humanitarian Logistics 5
Barcelona, Spain

May 31 – June 27
International Diploma In Humanitarian Assistance (IDHA) 46
New York, USA

July 6 – July 10
Human Rights In Humanitarian Crises (HRHC) 5
New York, USA

July 13 – July 17
Urban Disaster, Vulnerability, and Displacement: Humanitarian Challenges 1
New York, USA

September 20 – September 30
Mental Health In Complex Emergencies (MHCE) 11
Addis Ababa, Ethiopia

October 4 – October 8
Education In Emergencies 2
Amman, Jordan

November 1 – November 27
International Diploma In Humanitarian Assistance (IDHA) 46
Amman, Jordan

Course Schedule 2016

January 31 – February 26
International Diploma in Humanitarian Assistance (IDHA) 47
Geneva, Switzerland

March 7 – March 11
Disaster Management Training Course (DMTC) 8
Geneva, Switzerland

March 14 – March 18
Strategic Issues in Humanitarian Affairs 4
Geneva, Switzerland

April 4 – April 8
Humanitarian Negotiators Training Course (HNTC) 14
Barcelona, Spain

April 11 – April 15
Community Participation and Mobilization in Humanitarian Response 7
Barcelona, Spain

April 18 – April 22
Humanitarian Logistics 6
Barcelona, Spain

April 25 – April 29
Forced Migration 7
Barcelona, Spain

June 5 – July 2
International Diploma in Humanitarian Assistance (IDHA) 48
New York, USA

July 11 – July 15
Ethics of Humanitarian Assistance 5
New York, USA

July 18 – July 22
Accountability in Humanitarian Action 4
New York, USA

July 25 – July 29
Leadership and Management of Humanitarian Action 4
New York, USA

September 26 – September 30
Education in Emergencies 3
Nairobi, Kenya

October 9 – October 19
Mental Health in Complex Emergencies (MHCE) 12
Geneva, Switzerland

IIHA Trains Humanitarians Around The World

Undergraduate Programs

“The Undergraduate Program in Humanitarian Studies allows students to understand the intricacies of the humanitarian system and how it is influenced by politics, history, gender, religion—a bridge between humanitarian theory and practice.”

– Kaitlyn Lyngaas, IHS Major, Fordham University Class of 2016

The Undergraduate Program in Humanitarian Studies (HUST) is among the first of its kind in the United States. The International Humanitarian Studies Major is the fastest growing major at Fordham University. The IIHA also offers an undergraduate Minor in International Humanitarian Studies, which allows students to couple courses in humanitarian affairs with a Major from another field of study. International Humanitarian Studies courses incorporate aspects of political science, philosophy, history, and other fields. The program also offers students international service learning and internship opportunities, exposing them to organizations and systems governing humanitarian action. In the past students have interned with United Nations agencies, Human Rights Watch, the International Rescue Committee (IRC), among other organizations in a diverse array of sectors such as human rights, refugee resettlement, food security and youth empowerment.
Symposia and Lecture Series

The Institute of International Humanitarian Affairs regularly sponsors panel discussions and symposia that bring together international teams of experts to explore the various levels of humanitarian action. Lectures given by field workers, diplomats, policy makers, religious leaders, and media professionals seek to engage students, faculty, and leaders in humanitarian affairs through discussions that provide fresh insight into complex humanitarian problems.

Engaging Students, Faculty and Leaders

The Institute of International Humanitarian Affairs plays an active role in the academic and professional recognition and networking of humanitarian professionals. The Institute has sponsored a number of events that help to raise awareness of humanitarian issues, build networks of professionals and students, and foster the development of new ideas and approaches to humanitarian work.

Publications

As an essential part of its mission to provide a bridge between academia and the humanitarian sector, the Institute of International Humanitarian Affairs continually publishes research and books which serve as practical and well-informed guides on a range of humanitarian topics. From natural disasters to epidemics to the effects of civil strife, IIHA publications feature contributions from leading practitioners, diplomats, and academics on critical issues facing the global community.

The IHA Book Series Published by CIHC and IIHA

Preventive Diplomacy: Stopping Wars Before They Start* 2000. Edited by Kevin M. Cahill, M.D.
Basics of International Humanitarian Missions* 2003. Edited by Kevin M. Cahill, M.D.
Emergency Relief Operations* 2003. Edited by Kevin M. Cahill, M.D.
Traditions, Values, and Humanitarian Action* 2003. Edited by Kevin M. Cahill, M.D.
Human Security for All: A Tribute to Sergio Vieira de Mello* 2004. Edited by Kevin M. Cahill, M.D.
Technology for Humanitarian Action 2004. Edited by Kevin M. Cahill, M.D.
To Bear Witness: A Journey of Healing and Solidarity 2005. Kevin M. Cahill, M.D.
The Pulse of Humanitarian Assistance 2007. Edited by Kevin M. Cahill, M.D.
Even in Chaos: Education in Times of Emergency 2008. Edited by Kevin M. Cahill, M.D.
Foreword by Pierre Lescot
Diplomacy and Humanitarian Assistance 2009. Edited by Kevin M. Cahill, M.D.
Sudan at the Brink 2010. Francis M. Deng
Foreword by Kevin M. Cahill, M.D. (Also available in Arabic, German).
More with Less: Disasters in an Era of Diminishing Resources 2012. Edited by Kevin M. Cahill, M.D.
History and Hope: The International Humanitarian Reader 2013. Edited by Kevin M. Cahill, M.D.
The Open Door: Art and Foreign Policy at the RCSI 2014. Edited by Kevin M. Cahill, M.D.
An Unfinished Tapestry 2015. Kevin M. Cahill, M.D.
A Dream for Dublin 2015. Kevin M. Cahill, M.D.
Bound by Conflict 2016. Francis M. Deng
Foreword by Kevin M. Cahill, M.D. *Available in French.
The CIHC

Center for International Humanitarian Cooperation

The Center for International Humanitarian Cooperation (CIHC) was founded in 1992 to promote healing and peace in countries shattered by natural disasters, armed conflicts, and ethnic violence. The Center employs its resources and unique personal contacts to stimulate interest in humanitarian issues, promote innovative educational programs and training models, and fund scholarships for IIHA students, particularly those from the Global South. CIHC’s extensive list of publications and symposia address both the basic issues and the emerging challenges of humanitarian assistance. CIHC’s Board of Directors serves as an Advisory Board to the IIHA.

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